

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 10871-US-PA
Application No.: 10/708,352

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 2002/004437). Claims 4-6, 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to more clearly define the present invention. The limitations added in claims 1 and 10 are described at paragraph [0033] of the specification, and no new matter is entered. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-12, 16-18 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US 2002/004437) because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Office Action.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), each of three requirements must be met. First, the reference or references, taken alone or combined, must teach or suggest each and every element in the claims. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed invention. Third, a reasonable expectation of success must exist. Moreover, each of the three

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requirements must "be found in the prior art, and not be based on applicant's disclosure." See M.P.E.P. 2143, 8th ed., February 2003.

The present invention is in general related a back light module as claim 1 recites and a liquid crystal display as claim 10 recites:

Claim 1. A back light module, comprising:
a frame;
a reflecting plate set on the bottom interior section of the frame;
at least a lamp set within the frame above the reflecting plate;
a diffusion plate set over the frame and above the lamp;
a plurality of optical films set over the diffusion plate; and
at least a supporting element set between the reflecting plate and the diffusion plate
wherein *each supporting element has a first supporting section for supporting the diffusion plate and a second supporting section for supporting the lamp.*

Claim 10. A liquid crystal display, comprising:
a back light module, having:
a first frame;
a reflecting plate set up on the bottom interior section of the first frame;
at least a lamp set within the first frame above the reflecting plate;
a diffusion plate set over the first frame above the lamp;
a plurality of optical films set over the diffusion plate; and
at least a supporting element set between the reflecting plate and the diffusion plate,
wherein *each supporting element has a first supporting section for supporting the diffusion plate and a second supporting section for supporting the lamp;*
a liquid crystal panel above the optical films; and
a second frame positioned over the first frame and covering the edges of the liquid crystal panel.

Lee fails to disclose, teach or suggest each supporting element has a first supporting section for supporting the diffusion plate and *a second for supporting section supporting the lamp.* In Lee's reference, the supporter 60 is used to support the diffusion plate 50 but the

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supporter 60 does not support the lamp 30 (Fig. 3). In particular, as shown in Fig. 4, the contact portion 61 of the support 60 may contact with the diffusion plate 50. The extension portion 66 of the support 60 is formed at the bottom end of the support portion 65 to enhance cohesion between the mold frame 10 of the support portion and the reflection sheet 40 (paragraph [0046]). *The supporter 60 disclosed by Lee is just used to support the diffusion plate 50.* Lee does not disclose that the support 60 can also be used to support the lamp 30. Hence, Lee does not teach each and every element in claims 1 and 10, and thus a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 1 and 10 has not been established by the Office Action.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10 patently define over the prior art reference, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18 patently define over the prior art as a matter of law, for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features of their respective independent claims.

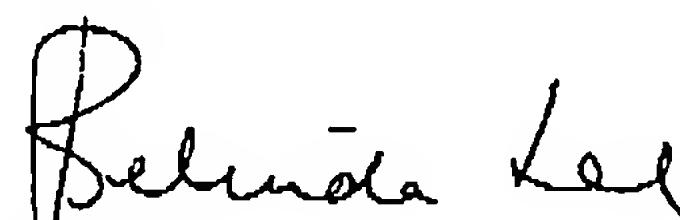
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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